



January 20, 2004

Grand jury returns bank robbery, firearm indictments

A federal grand jury returned the following indictments on January 15 in U.S. District Court, Providence:

Joseph E. Beaver, 38, address unknown – a three-count indictment charging him with robbing tellers at a Sovereign Bank branch on November 28, using a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Beaver pleaded not guilty at his arraignment today before Magistrate Judge Robert W. Lovegreen, who ordered him detained. Providence Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the case; Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerard B. Sullivan is prosecuting it.

James Silva, also known as John Paliotti, 37, address unknown – a one-count indictment charging him with robbing a bank employee at a Citizens Bank branch at 333 West River Street, Providence, on October 15. Silva pleaded not guilty at his arraignment today before Magistrate Judge Lovegreen, who ordered him detained. Providence Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the case; Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein is prosecuting it.

Gregory L. Burcz, 34, of 67 Malbone Road, Newport – a one-count indictment charging him with robbing a bank employee at Citizens Bank, 11 Washington Square, Newport, on September 17. Burcz is scheduled to be arraigned on January 22 in U.S. District Court, Providence. Newport Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the case; Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose is prosecuting it.

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Sigismund Dantzler, 21, of 821 Atwells Avenue, Providence – a one-count indictment charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm – a .357 Caliber revolver, on June 22. Dantzler is scheduled to be arraigned on January 22 in U.S. District Court. Providence Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated the case as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes; Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose is prosecuting it.

Jermaine Lee, age unknown, of 337 Point Street, Apt. C., Providence – a one-count indictment charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm on October 24. Lee is scheduled to be arraigned on January 22 in U.S. District Court. Providence Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated the case as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee is prosecuting it.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Upon conviction, the statutory maximum penalties for the offenses charged in these indictments are: bank robbery – 25 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine; using a firearm in a crime of violence, a minimum of five years, consecutive to any other sentence imposed, and maximum of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; being a felon in possession of a firearm – ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Exact sentencing for any defendant convicted would be determined on the basis of federal sentencing guidelines, which take into account such factors as the specific nature and impact of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

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